



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

Eric Melgren, U.S. Attorney

Contact: Kena Rice

(316) 269-6481

Headquarters
1200 Epic Center
301 N. Main
Wichita, Kansas 67202
(316)269-6481
FAX (316)269-6484

Topeka Office
444 Quincy
Topeka, Kansas 66683

Kansas City Office
500 State Avenue
Suite 360
Kansas City, Kansas 66101

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GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS - TWO INDICTED FOR QUIK TRIP ROBBERY

WICHITA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that ten individuals were indicted late in the day on August 25, 2004, by a federal grand jury in Wichita, Kansas. Those indicted include:

- **William L. Jackson**, 19, and **Samuel R. Rushin**, 21, both of Wichita, Kansas, are each charged with one count of robbing the Quik Trip, 6011 W. Central, Wichita, Kansas, on August 24, 2004; and one count of brandishing a firearm during the Quik Trip robbery.

If convicted, each face a maximum of twenty years for robbery and a maximum of life for brandishing a firearm during the robbery. Jackson and Rushin are currently in custody and are expected to make their initial appearances in U.S. District Court on Friday, August 27, 2004, at 1:30 p.m. The case was investigated by the Wichita Police Department.

- **Earl T. Lalik**, 35, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, is charged with eleven counts of mail fraud and one count of forfeiture.

The indictment alleges that from November 2000 through August 29, 2003, Lalik was employed as a construction engineer for NPC International of Pittsburg, Kansas, a company that operated various Pizza Hut restaurants throughout the United States. The indictment further alleges that as a construction engineer, Lalik had approval authority for invoices on new construction or renovation of Pizza Hut restaurants. The indictment alleges that Lalik executed a scheme to defraud NPC International in the approximate amount of \$131,149.00 by approving false invoices for work allegedly performed by Construction Development Services. The indictment alleges that Construction Development Services, with Lalik as President, was a postal box rented at a UPS store in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and that

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a review of the invoices submitted by Construction Development Services revealed that the work supposedly performed was either not performed or was performed by other contractors at a cheaper price. The indictment alleges that Lalik caused NPC International to use the United States Postal Service to deliver checks to Construction Development Services, a postal address over which Lalik maintained control, for the purpose of defrauding NPC International.

If convicted, Lalik faces a maximum of twenty years in federal prison, without parole, on each count. The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

- **Berta Alisia De Luna-Gomez**, 39, Wichita, Kansas, currently in custody, is charged with one count of using documents unlawfully obtained as evidence of authorization to stay and for employment in the United States from May 2000 through August 19, 2004; one count of falsely representing herself to be a citizen of the United States on a federal Employment Eligibility Verification form on May 31, 2000; and two counts of using a social security number that was not assigned to her on May 31, 2000, all in Sedgwick County, Kansas.

If convicted, De Luna-Gomez faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison, without parole, for using documents unlawfully obtained for employment; a maximum of three years for falsely representing herself to be a citizen of the United States; and a maximum of five years for misusing a social security number. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Custom Enforcement and is being prosecuted Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson.

- **Avraham Bagola**, 38, and **Luyobov Tkachenko**, 23, both of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, both in custody, are each charged with one count of possession with the intent to distribute approximately 1.96 kilograms (approximately 4.3 pounds) of methamphetamine on July 27, 2004, in Geary County, Kansas.

If convicted, each face a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Geary County Sheriff's Office, the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

- **Pablo Roberto Flores, Jr.**, 33, Kismet, Kansas, **Abel Salinas-Soto**, 30, Liberal, Kansas, and **Jesus Jose Ortiz**, 40, Liberal, Kansas, all currently in custody, are each charged with one count of conspiracy to distribute approximately 300 grams (approximately 10.58 ounces) of methamphetamine between May 19, 2004, and July 15, 2004, in Seward County, Kansas. Flores is also charged with one count of distributing approximately 12.61 grams (approximately .44 ounce) of methamphetamine on May 19, 2004. Ortiz is also charged with one count of distributing approximately 12.61 grams (approximately .44 ounce) of methamphetamine on May 19, 2004; one count of distributing approximately 24.85 grams (approximately .88 ounce) of methamphetamine on June 8, 2004;

one count of distributing approximately 78.38 grams (approximately 2.76 ounces) of methamphetamine on June 22, 2004; and one count of distributing approximately 82.48 grams (approximately 2.9 ounces) of methamphetamine on July 15, 2004. Salinas-Soto is also charged with distributing approximately 24.85 grams (approximately .88 ounce) of methamphetamine on June 8, 2004; one count of distributing approximately 78.38 grams (approximately 2.76 ounces) of methamphetamine on June 22, 2004; and one count of distributing approximately 82.48 grams (approximately 2.9 ounces) of methamphetamine on July 15, 2004.

If convicted, each face a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years in federal prison without parole for those counts involving conspiracy or distributing 50 grams or more of methamphetamine and a maximum of twenty years for those counts involving distributing less than 50 grams of methamphetamine. The case was investigated by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mona Furst.

- **Carol E. Wigner**, 44, Garden City, Kansas, while employed with the U.S. Postal Service in Garden City, Kansas, is charged with one count of embezzling approximately \$3,200 in Postal Money Orders for her own benefit between January 15, 2002, and December 13, 2003.

If convicted, Wigner faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lanny Welch.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.